

Message Text

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FROM VATICAN OFFICE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR EC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, XF, IT, IS, VT
SUBJECT: DAYAN VISIT TO VATICAN

1. SUMMARY: DAYAN'S VISIT TO THE VATICAN TOOK PLACE IN
CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE BUT PUBLIC STATEMENTS REVEAL DIFFERENCES
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OF VIEW OVER THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY PLACES.
END SUMMARY.

2. POPE PAUL RECEIVED ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN IN
PRIVATE AUDIENCE JANUARY 12. DAYAN PROVIDED THE POPE WITH
GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISRAELI PEACE PROPOSALS, AND EXPLAINED
ISRAELI PROPOSALS REGARDING THE PALESTINIANS AND FOR THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOLY PLACES. DAYAN ALSO ASKED THE VATICAN FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE INITIATIVES AND FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF OTHER ARAB STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE POPE IN HIS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC REMARKS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BY "COURAGEOUS AND FARSIGHTED LEADERS" AND CALLED FOR THE PARTICIPATION "BY ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES." IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS, THE POPE STATED THAT: "DESPITE THE ACCUMULATED DIFFICULTIES, IT IS POSSIBLE TO REACH SOLUTIONS THAT COMBINE THE BASIC DEMANDS OF BOTH SECURITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLES OF THE AREA." WITH REGARD TO JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY PLACES, THE POPE SAID THE FOLLOWING "...WE FERVENTLY HOPE FOR A SOLUTION THAT WILL NOT ONLY SATISFY THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THOSE CONCERNED, BUT ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PREEMINENTLY RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF THE HOLY CITY. WE THEREFORE TRUST THAT THE PROPOSAL SEVERAL TIMES PUT FORWARD BY THE HOLY SEE... WILL BE SEEN AS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SUCH A SOLUTION."

4. WHILE ACCORDING TO ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS DAYAN STATED THAT THE POPE HAD NOT TALKED ABOUT JERUSALEM BUT ONLY THE HOLY PLACES, THE VATICAN PRESS SPOKESMAN, IN A STATEMENT WHICH WAS NOT PUBLISHED IN L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, CONTRIDICTED HIM. ACCORDING TO THE VATICAN STATEMENT, THE POPE, DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH DAYAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"ILLUSTRATED THE HOLY SEE'S POINT OF VIEW ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY PLACES, POINTING OUT THAT THE WELL-KNOWN SOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE HOLY SEE FOR JERUSALEM IS AIMED AT RESPONDING TO THE UNIQUE AND SACRED CHARACTER OF THE CITY AND TO THE SPIRITUAL INTERESTS OF MILLIONS OF CATHOLICS AND FAITHFUL OF THE OTHER THREE GREAT MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS, AND TO THE RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES RESIDING IN IT." THE STATEMENT THEN SAYS "ON HIS PART, THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THE POSITION OF ISRAEL ON THESE SAME QUESTIONS, AND ILLUSTRATED THE EFFORTS WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN FOR PEACE. HE, IN ADDITION, DESCRIBED WHAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS DONE TO GUARANTEE THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY PLACES OF ALL RELIGIONS AND FOR FREE ACCESS TO THEM." GARDNER

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